

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A drilling shoe configured to be coupled to a casing section, said drilling shoe comprising:

a fixed section adapted to be coupled to the casing section; and

a rotatable section coupled to the fixed section,

said drilling shoe being shiftable between a rotatable configuration and a locked configuration, said rotatable section being rotatable relative to the fixed section when the drilling shoe is in the rotatable configuration, said rotatable section being rotationally fixed relative to the fixed section when the drilling shoe is in the locked configuration,

said drilling shoe being shiftable from the rotatable configuration into the locked configuration by axially shifting at least one of the rotatable and fixed sections away from the other of the rotatable and fixed sections.

said drilling shoe comprising an internal biasing mechanism for biasing the drilling shoe towards the rotatable configuration.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 1,
said fixed and rotatable sections being telescopically intercoupled.

4. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 1,
said fixed section having first and second fixed ends,
said rotatable section having first and second rotatable ends,
said first fixed end being configured to be coupled to the casing section,
said second fixed end and said first rotatable end being coupled to one another.

5. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 4,

one of said second fixed end and said first rotatable end presenting a projection,
the other of said second fixed end and said first rotatable end presenting a recess,
said projection being received in said recess when the drilling shoe is in the locked
configuration to thereby prevent relative rotation of the fixed and rotatable
sections,
said projection being removed from the recess when the drilling shoe is in the rotatable
configuration to thereby permit relative rotation of the fixed and rotatable
sections.

6. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 4,
said rotatable section including a drillable drill bit rigidly coupled to the second rotatable
end.

7. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 6,
said drill bit including a valve for controlling fluid flow therethrough.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The drilling shoe of claim 1,
said internal biasing mechanism comprising a compression spring disposed between at
least a portion of the fixed section and at least a portion of the rotatable section.

10. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 1,
said rotatable section including an internal drive member defining a splined opening.

11. (Original) The drilling shoe of claim 1,
said fixed section being threadably coupled to the casing section.

12. (Currently Amended) A drilling apparatus coupled with a section of casing, said drilling apparatus comprising:

a drilling shoe comprising a fixed section and a rotatable section, said rotatable section being selectively rotatable relative to the casing section, said shoe including a drillable bit; and

a locking mechanism for preventing rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing section so that the bit can be drilled out after the casing section is set, said locking mechanism comprising two sets of interlockable teeth, one of said sets attached to the fixed section and the other of said sets attached to the rotatable section, said interlockable teeth being biased apart during rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing,

said interlockable teeth being shiftable from an unlocked configuration to a locked configuration by axially shifting at least one of the fixed and rotatable sections away from the other of the fixed and rotatable sections.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, said shoe being undetachable from the casing while the casing and the shoe are positioned down hole.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, said teeth being unlocked during rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing and interlocked during drilling out of the bit after the casing section is set.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, said locking mechanism further including a spring biasing the teeth apart during rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12,
said shoe including a drive section for powered rotation of the rotatable section relative to
the casing.

18. (Currently Amended) A drilling apparatus coupled with a section of casing, said drilling apparatus comprising:

a drilling shoe comprising a fixed section and a rotatable section, said rotatable section being selectively rotatable relative to the casing section, said rotatable section including a drillable bit; and

a locking mechanism for preventing rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing section so that the bit can be drilled out after the casing section is set,

said locking mechanism being shiftable from an unlocked configuration to a locked configuration by axially shifting at least one of the fixed and rotatable sections away from the other of the fixed and rotatable sections,

said shoe including a drive section for powered rotation of the rotatable section relative to the casing,

said drive section comprising a plurality of splines and a complementary drive shaft configured for releaseable engagement with the splines.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18,
said apparatus further including a mud motor for powering the drive shaft.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12,
said drillable bit including first and second valves for controlling the flow of fluid therethrough.

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
- (a) coupling a drilling shoe to an end of a casing section, said drilling shoe including a non-rotatable portion and a rotatable portion;
 - (b) using the drilling shoe to drill a borehole in a subterranean formation by rotating the rotatable portion of the drilling shoe relative to the casing section; and
 - (c) after drilling the wellbore to the desired depth, locking the drilling shoe so that relative rotation of the casing section and the rotatable portion is inhibited, wherein said locking is facilitated by axially shifting at least one of the rotatable and non-rotatable portions away from ~~relative to~~ the other of the rotatable and non-rotatable portions.

22. (Currently Amended) A method comprising the steps of:
- (a) coupling a drilling shoe to an end of a casing section, said drilling shoe including a non-rotatable portion and a rotatable portion;
 - (b) using the drilling shoe to drill a borehole in a subterranean formation by rotating the rotatable portion of the drilling shoe relative to the casing section;
 - (c) locking the drilling shoe so that relative rotation of the casing section and the rotatable portion is inhibited, wherein said locking is facilitated by axially shifting at least one of the non-rotatable and rotatable portions away from the other of the non-rotatable and rotatable portions; and
 - (d) while the drilling shoe is locked, drilling out the drilling shoe to thereby permit fluid flow therethrough.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22,
said rotatable portion of the drilling shoe including a drill bit,
step (b) including using the drill bit to drill the borehole,
step (d) including drilling out the drill bit.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22; and
- (e) subsequent to step (b) and prior to step (d), cementing the casing by passing cement downwardly through the casing section and out of the drilling shoe.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24,
steps (b) and (e) being performed without removing the casing section or the drilling shoe from the borehole.

26. (Original) The method of claim 24; and
- (f) producing fluids from the subterranean formation through the drilling shoe.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26,
steps (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) being performed without removing the casing section or the
drilling shoe from the borehole.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21,
said non-rotatable portion being telescopically intercoupled with the rotatable portion[[,]]
~~step (c) including axially shifting the rotatable and non-rotatable portions relative to one~~
~~another.~~

29. (Original) The method of claim 21,
step (c) including mechanically locking the rotatable portion of the drilling shoe relative
to the casing section.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29,
said non-rotatable section having first and second fixed ends,
said rotatable section having first and second rotatable ends,
one of said second fixed end and said first rotatable end presenting a projection,
the other of said second fixed end and said first rotatable end presenting a recess,
step (c) including inserting the projection into the recess.

31. (Original) The method of claim 21,
step (b) being performed while simultaneously rotating the casing.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of drilling and completing a well comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an apparatus comprising a section of casing, a drilling shoe, and a locking mechanism, said drilling shoe comprising a fixed section coupled to the section of casing and a rotatable section rotatable relative to the section of casing, said rotatable section including a drillable drill bit;
- (b) rotating said rotatable section relative to the section of casing to thereby drill a well bore to a desired depth;
- (c) cementing said section of casing into place;
- (d) axially shifting at least one of the fixed and rotatable sections away from the other of the fixed and rotatable sections to thereby lock said locking mechanism; and
- ~~(e)-(d)~~ while said locking mechanism is locked, drilling out at least a portion of said drillable bit by a subsequent drilling operation,
said locking mechanism preventing rotation of the rotatable section relative to the section of casing during step (e)-(d).

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32,
said fixed section being telescopically intercoupled with said rotatable section[[,]]
~~said fixed and rotatable sections being axially shiftable relative to one another.~~

34. (Original) The method of claim 33,
said locking mechanism comprising two sets of interlockable teeth, one of said sets attached to the fixed section and the other of said sets attached to the rotatable section.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 34,
step (d) causing said teeth to interlock,
said teeth being unlocked during step (b) and interlocked during step (e)-(d).

36. (Original) The method of claim 34,
said locking mechanism further including a spring biasing the teeth apart during step (b).

37. (Original) The method of claim 32,
said drillable bit including first and second valves for controlling the flow of fluid
therethrough.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32,
step (b) being performed while simultaneously rotating the casing.

39. (Currently Amended) A drilling shoe configured to be coupled to a casing section, said drilling shoe comprising:

a fixed section adapted to be coupled to the casing section; and

a rotatable section coupled to the fixed section,

said drilling shoe being shiftable between a rotatable configuration and a locked configuration, said rotatable section being rotatable relative to the fixed section when the drilling shoe is in the rotatable configuration, said rotatable section being rotationally fixed relative to the fixed section when the drilling shoe is in the locked configuration,

wherein axial shifting at least one of said fixed and rotatable sections away from ~~relative to~~ the other of said fixed and rotatable sections causes the drilling shoe to shift from the rotatable configuration to the locked configuration.